G. R. S. 59] GPB—15,000—22-7-14

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

1901.—02

(Sanitary)
(Plague)

File No. 38 of 01—02

Serial Nos. 1— 14

B

~~**Papers Filed.**~~

Month Sept 02

SUBJECT.

Measures adopted for the extermination of rats.

Addressed - B B Shenkelton

PREVIOUS REFERENCES.	LATER REFERENCES.
C. H. 49/07 C	Comm

Irrgn. C

OFFICE OF THE DEWAN OF MYSORE,
(REVENUE AND GENERAL DEPARTMENTS).

(Full Office Note.)

Subject.

Memo No 3016 dated 31st May 1902 from the First Assistant Resident in Mysore in re rats as Carriers of Plegue infection and means adopte for their exter

SECTION Sos

FILE No. 3.2 1/01

SERIAL No.

Note.

With the memo alluded to above the 1st Assistant to the Hon'ble the Resident in Mysore forwarded a copy of a communication from the Govt. of India calling for a report of particulars as to any methods which may from time to time have been employed in the state for the destruction of rats and further requesting that if any system has been found to be successful, information may be furnished to show(1)the extent to which private enterprise co-operated in the measures taken; (11)whether any oppo-sition to the measures, arising from the prejudices of the people, was encountered by the local authorities;(111)the cost incurred on account of the operations;(1v)the approximate number of rats destroyed; and(v)~~your~~ opinion as to the practical usefulness of the measures.

2 A copy of the foregoing letter was forwarded to each of the Deputy Commissioners and the Senior Surgeon for a detailed report on the above points.

Nol22-2, 15-5-02
S.No.1

No:19/83 - 1878/13-6.02
S no2

1. Statement of case in narrative form in regular sequence of subject matter or date.
2. Opinions to be stated only as supported by precedents, or general rules which should always be quoted.
3. Serial numbers in file, &c., to be always stated.
4. Dates of important documents referred should be given.
5. Write on both sides, leaving the same side as margin.

‡ 1. No. and date of latest letter or paper.
2. Catch words to show nature of subject.
3. Subject to be in red and body of note in black ink.

× Letter No 1

2

3 Their replies have now been received, the earliest being from the Deputy Commissioners of Shimoga and Chitaldrug and the last/the Senior Surgn. & Dated 28th August 1902 Serial No 14.

4 From a perusal of the reports it is obvious that no systematic attempts seem to have been made in the direction of the wholesale destruction of rats and any spasmodic experiments made to destroy them by means of traps and poison have been but little successful; the offer of a reward of one anna for each rat killed or caught was either not sufficently attractive of that the people were not fully alive to the danger of rats being carriers of infection, for, the offer made has no effect at all in the diminution of rats by any human contrivance, though it may safely be asserted that thousands of them had died of plague.

Some of the Deputy Commissioners have furnished no statistics at all as to the number of rats destroyed and the amount spent on that account while the stastics furnished by the others * cannot be considered as accurate in-as-much as the figures for the no two districts is for the same period and figures, such as they are, when totalled up come to 18973 rats killed at an expense of Rs1362 and odd for the districts of Bangalore, Tumkur, Hassan, Kadur, and Chitaldrug and the Cities of Bangalore and Mysore

* Place.	No of rats Killed	Amount Spent
Bangalore city	4230	252-12-
Bangalore dist	not given	32-5-
Mysore city	103	3-10-
Mysore dist	Information not given	
Kolar do	do	do
Tumkur do	not given	181-11-
Hassan do	1028	61-3-
Kadur do	10000	625-0-
Chitaldrug do	3612	225-12-
Shimoga do	Information not given	
	18973	1362-5-

5 Though the people did not take any active part in the destruction of rats generally yet they, it is reported, did not exhibit any hostility towards any measure which had such an object in view.

6 As regards point 5 the Senior Surgeon is of opinion that any measure which can be found out to exterminate rats will be of immense value.

I have carefully collected the Statistics received from the Deputies Commissioners and have prepared the Draft Letter to Government

Submitted to the Resident 18/9/02

Submitted in the draft letter D
29/8/02 the Residency for approval & orders

To the Dewan through the 2nd Councillor
LB 84 2/9/1902

2/9/1902

11/9/02

L.B.P. No A dated 9-6-02

15566.
1902
1901-2

From

THE FIRST ASSISTANT TO THE
HON'BLE THE RESIDENT
IN MYSORE.

To Pol 1704

THE DEWAN OF MYSORE.

Dated 31. 5. 02

Despatched

Received

General No. 3016
No.

Enclosure No.

Requesting to be furnished with a report containing full particulars as to any method which may have been in use to be employed for the destruction of rats in the Mysore State

---

References to be marked.

Plg. Branch

Rec'd at 5 Pm
10.6.1902

MGCPβ—2,000—30-7-01.

SECTION Sany

FILE No. 380 of 01

SERIAL No. 1

4709

RD 26.02

Copy of letter, No.122-2, dated the 15th May 1902, from the Under Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, to the Honourable the Resident in Mysore and Chief Commissioner of Coorg.

The Government of India have under consideration the question whether it is possible or expedient to adopt generally any organized system for the extermination of rats in areas which are infected with plague or threatened with an importation of the disease. To enable them to arrive at a decision in the matter, I am to request that ..... they may be furnished with a report containing full particulars as to any methods which may have been from time to time employed for the destruction of these animals in the Mysore State. If any system has been found to be successful, the Government of India desire that the report may show- (i) the extent to which private enterprise co-operated in the measures taken; (ii) whether any opposition to the measures, arising from the prejudices of the people, was encountered by the local authorities; (iii) the cost incurred on account of the operations; (iv) the approximate number of rats destroyed; and (v) your opinion as to the practical usefulness of the measures.

No.

3

No. 3016

The Resident's Office.

Bangalore, 31. 5 1902.

Copy of the foregoing letter is forwarded to the Dewan of Mysore with a request that the Resident may be favoured at an early date with the information required by the Government of India.

For First Assistant Resident.

vs.

Yes - also get a report in detail from the Senior Surgeon ~~Bangalore~~ Mysore

6.VI.02

(24)

SECTION Secy

FILE No. 38-84 Cat

SER'AL No. 2

19/8

No 1878

13th June

Here enter letter No 3016 dated 31st May 1902 from the First Asst. Resident in Mysore.

Copy forwarded to the Senior Surgeon & Sanitary Commissioner & the Deputy Commissioners of Districts & the presidents of the Bangalore & Mysore city Municipalities with a request that a detailed report may be submitted to Govt. on all the points referred to in the above letter & their attention is also invited to para 10 of Govt. plo. No. 573-83 dated 21.11.1900

By order

Secretary

5

Copy of letter No.122-2 dated the 15th May 1902 from the Under Secretary to the Government of India, Home Deptt., to the Honourable the Resident in Mysore and Chief Commissioner of Coorg.

The Government of India have under consideration the question whether it is possible or expedient to adopt generally any organized system for the extermination of rats in areas which are infected with plague or threatened with an importation of the disease. To enable them to arrive at a decision in the matter, I am to request that.....they may be furnished with a report containing full particulars as to any methods which may have been from time to time employed for the destruction of these animals in the Mysore State. If any system has been found to be successful , the Government of India desire that the report may show (1) the extent to which private enterprise co-operated in the measures taken; (11) whether any opposition to the measures arising from the prejudices of the people was encountered by the local authorities; (111) the cost incurred on account of the operations; (1V) the approximate number of rats destroyed; and (V) your opinion as to the practical usefulness of the measures.

No 19183 a 13-6-02 Reg No 985
LBP/1878

Copies forwarded to the Senior Surgeon and Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of Mysore , the Deputy Commissioners of Districts and the Presidents of the Bangalore and Mysore City Municipalities with a request that a detailed report may be submitted to Government on all the points referred to in the above letter and their attention is also invited * to para 10 of Government Proceedings No.573-83 dated the 21st November 1900.

14-6-02
Health Offr:

By Order,

For Secretary

190

SECT

FILE No. 3

SER. No. 3

From The Health Officer, Mysore City (3)

To

THE SECY. TO THE GOVT. OF MYSORE,
GEN. & REV. DEPTS.

Dated 20 · 7 · 1902

Despatched

Received

General No. 42
No.

Enclosure No.

Submits a detailed report on the subject of destruction of rats as called for in this office 19183 dated 24/8(P) 1878 13·6·1902.

Submitted
Replies from these officers will be collected and a precis made and submitted
Vide 22/7/02

References to be marked

27

MGCPB—5,000—21-7-01.

From.

The Health officer
Mysore City

Through the President
City Municipality
Mysore

To,

The Secretary to the
Government of Mysore
Genl: & Rev: Depts.

Dated. 20th July 1902
No. 42.

Enclosure, one secy's no. 19183 / L.B(P) 1878 of 13.6.02

Sir,

With reference to your No. 19183 / L.B(P) 1878 of 13.6.02 forwarding a copy of Letter 122-2 dated the 15th May from the under secretary to the Govt. of India, Home Deptt. to the Hon: The Resident in Mysore, I have the honour to report on the points mentioned therein as follows.

(1) In the beginning when Plague appeared for the first time in this City, the ignorance and prejudice on the part of the people did not permit them to co-operate in the measures adopted.

(2) The people, when the dire disease set in confusion and fear, and whose minds were highly prejudiced with various theories that were afloat, had no firm belief in the theory that rats are the chief agents to carry infection from place to place. So, though no direct opposition

was practically experienced. The people did neither render any help to the Govt. officials, nor they themselves take any steps in the rat-killing operation.

(3) The amount spent for the operation in the form of rewards, was Rs 3-10-2.

(4) The approximate number of rats destroyed and produced before the Municipality, in spite of liberal rewards offered, was 103.

(5) As regards the practical usefulness of rat-killing measures, in my humble opinion, it is rather useful in the beginning, when the disease is in its dormant state and is confined to one locality, to stop transmission of infection. But when the infection is broad cast, lurking in the soil and waiting to break out in an epidemic form, year after year at certain season when the temperature is favourable to it, it is more useful to have rats in houses than to be without them, as they keep the inmates fully informed of the fact whether the house they live in is free from infection or not, by seeing lively or dead rats.

Further anybody who has studied the native houses can better imagine if it is possible to destroy all the rodents that safely lurk in them. As remarked by the Senior Surgeon and Sanitary Commissioner, it is easier to prescribe the remedy than to carry it out as the population of rats is not counted in thousands but in millions.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant

M Moosa Khan D.P.H
Health officer
Mysore City

1033.

1902-03.

SE[illegible] N[illegible]

FILE No. [illegible]

R[illegible] No. 4

From The Deputy Commissioner
Tumkur District
Tumkur

To The asst. Secretary to the
Government of Mysore
in Charge of the Local
Boards Branch
Bangalore

Dated 22nd July 1902

Despatched

Received

General No. 13
No.

Enclosures No.

Secretary's memo No. 19183 dated
L.S.(S) 1878
the 13th ultimo

Reporting upon the
measures adopted towards
the destruction of rats called
for

Cheque replies
from Mr Rees

24/7/02

10

Office of the Deputy Commissioner
Tumkur District &
Dated, Tumkur 22 July 1902.

No.

From,

The Deputy Commissioner
Tumkur District
Tumkur.

To.

The assistant Secretary to the Government of Mysore in Charge of the Local Boards
Branch
Bangalore.

Sir,

With reference to Secretary's memo no: 19183 / L.B.(P) 1898 dated the 13th ultimo, calling for a report upon the measures adopted towards the destruction of rats, I have the honor to state that in Conformity with the Plague Commissioners Circular No: 566-71 dated 15th August 1898 regarding the killing of rats by traps, orders were issued to the Amildars of Tumkur, Gubbi and Tiptur Talugs placing an imprest of Rs: 10/- at the disposal of each of them for awarding money rewards to the rat-killers. From the Commencement of the Plague preventive operations in August 1898 the Amildars of the said Talugs have paid a total sum of Rs: 161. 11-4 as rewards to rat-killers for the destruction

of

of rats found within the premises of the several Railway Stations in the District. Besides this the Amildars and the Deputy amildars of the rest of the Talugs and Sub-Talugs were instructed to make the people understand that they should make free use of traps or some other suitable Contrivances for killing rats, which form the Chief factor in spreading infection: and the advantages of early evacuation as soon as dead rats were discovered in the Village, were made known to the people of this District.

2. No opposition of any sort to the measures arising from the prejudices of the people was encountered in the matter of destruction of rats.

3. Within the premises of the several Railway stations alone, nearly 3000 rats were killed besides, many more killed elsewhere in the District by the people themselves.

4. The people are under the impression that it is not desirable to aim at wholesale extermination of the rats as in most Cases they have proved to be Sure indicators of the danger. The destruction of rats may be Confined to infected localities alone.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient servant

For Deputy Commissioner

L-7(P) 233 12

(5) 1902-03 1087.

SECTION

FILE No.

SERIAL No. 5

From

The Dy Commissioner
Mysore District

To

The Assistant Secretary to Govt.
In charge of the Local Boards
Dated 23rd Jan 1903 Branch Bangalore.
Despatched
Received
General No. 18
No.

Enclosure No. —

Reference No. 19183 dated
L.S.G.I. 1878
13.6.02 and subsequent —
reminder docket no. 1007-17
L.S.G. 42
dated 18th Instant calling for
a detailed report about
the destruction of rats in this
District

With reference to the
above, has the honor to
state that the destruction
of rats was not carried
on

out in the District on any organized plan and that no cost has been incurred on this account

A. Rawlings Jr.
Ass't Deputy Commissioner
(Ry Zone District)

(6) No 285 ; 44

189 5 JUL 1902

SECTION

FILE No. 2

SERIAL No. 6

FROM The President
Municipal Commission
Bangalore City

To The Assistant Secretary to the
Govt of Mysore
L. B. P Department

Dated

Despatched 29 July 1902

Received

General No. 35
No.

Enclosure No. One

Govt. Pros. No: 19183 L.B.(P)18-78 dated
13 June 1902 and reminder
No: 1007-17 L.B.(P) 42 dated the 18th Inst.
calling for a report regarding
the destruction of rats etc.

Submitting the detailed
report called for in the above.

C Nedi
29/7/02

15

Office of the Municipal Commission,

City, Bangalore, 25th July 1902.

No. 35
Enclo 1
From

THE PRESIDENT,
Municipal Commission,
BANGALORE CITY.

To

THE ~~SECRETARY~~ Assistant TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MYSORE,
~~*General and Revenue*~~ *Local Sanitary & Plague Departments,*
BANGALORE.

Sir,

With reference to Government Proceedings No. 19183 / Z.B.(P) 1878 dated the 13th June 1902 and reminder No. 1004-17 / Z.B.(P) 42 dated the 18 Instant regarding the destruction of rats in the Bangalore City, I have the honor to submit herewith an original Health Officers' letter No. 59 dated the 9th Instant describing in detail the several methods tried for the destruction of these animals.

The total number of rats

Vide re.

16

mice by Electrocuted and produced
in the City Municipal Office for
reward from 1st November 1897 up
to date are 4230. The total amount
of reward paid therefor being
Rs 252-12-0 as shewn in the
margin.

Rats — 1983
Bandicoots — 2101
Mice — 146
Total 4230

Amount of rewards paid — Rs 252/12

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obt. Servant

[illegible]
President

WSK

(6/a) 17

Office of the Health Officer,

Bangalore City 9th July 1902

No. 59
Vic File

From

P. Palgrave Esquire. L.M.S.D.P.H
~~THE~~ HEALTH OFFICER,

BANGALORE CITY

To

H. H. Sparkes. Esquire
President
City Municipal Commission
Bangalore.

Sir,

Rec'd 11/7/02
Hd Clerk
MJ

With reference to your G.F. 422 Memo dated the 17th June 1902 I herewith returned with enclosures I have the honor to state that on the commencement of Plague in the City, an attempt was made for destroying rats. Rewards were offered for rats, mice and bandicoots caught ~~alive~~ by private individuals and presented at the Ward Offices or Municipal Office. A few traps were also purchased and supplied In addition, poison was supplied to the different Ward Offices for free distribution to those that wanted to kill rats that way.

No figures are available in this Office as regards the total number of rats caught or killed under these

these methods. This information as well as the cost incurred may be had on reference to the Plague Cash Account book maintained in the Municipal Office. As poisoning is not a popular method of killing rats, most of the poison issued to the Ward Offices appears to have remained unspent It is believed that trapping for reward worked the best and that about 20,000 rats were killed in all that way. The crusade, however appears to have been discontinued after a few months of the commencement of the 2nd years outbreak it is recorded that many rats were found dead in infected houses This was observed in succeeding years as well. The bandicoots appear to have died out altogether. Not one of them is seen now in the Streets and drains where formerly numbers could be seen at nights Big-sized rats too have become considerably scarce. This is believed to be due to repeated outbreaks of plague among them during the past few years rather than to any attempts on the part of the people to destroy them. There has been no opposition arising from prejudices of the people to any measure for the destruction of rats. But the masses are as usual indifferent and apathetic although during the repeated

outbreaks

outbreaks of Plague in the past few years, many have had opportunities to understand the relationship that exists between rats and the dissemination of that disease. During the last year's outbreak, the source of infection was traced to rats in a large percentage of cases and this year there are sufficient numbers of rats now in the locality so that should by chance the poison get introduced into some of the suitable centres, it is likely the disease would spread to the whole city as rapidly as in previous years. It is therefore advisable that the crusade should be re-commenced as early as possible and continued as long as necessary. Of the methods tried, poisoning is unpopular and risky. I had suggested that cultures of a microbe of the Colon species which causes a contagious disease among rats, mice and bandicoots and is harmless to domestic animals and man may be tried instead. Under favorable conditions it is reported that a large number of rats have died under this method when only a few were actually poisoned. The method may therefore be given a trial if the cost of the cultures be not prohibitive, and if found unsuccessful, the reward system may

may be recommenced

2C

I have the honor to be
Sir
your most obedient Servant

L. M. S., D. P. H.,

Health Officer, Bangalore City.

Dr

(8) 21

4233

SECTION 7

FILE NO. 5 of 1

SER'AL NO. 7

FROM M. Narain Rao Esquire
Deputy Commissioner
Chitaldrug District

To H. Ramanja Esquire
Assistant Secretary to the Government
Mysore Local Boards Branch
Bangalore

Dated 20th
Despatched August 1902

Received

General No. 106
No.

Enclosure No. –

OFFICE OF THE
1902 1531.
5 - AUG 1902
D'GANJ

Reporting in detail the methods adopted for the destruction of rats during the prevalence of Plague in the District

22

Deputy Commissioner's Office
of the Kaladurg District.
Dated the Kaladurg 2d August 1902

No 106-

From

M. Narain Rao Esquire,
Deputy Commissioner,
of the Kaladurg District

To

H. Ramaiya Esquire
Assistant Secretary to
the Government of Mysore.
Local Boards' Branch
Bangalore

Sir,

Referring to your memo no. 19183/1878 dated 13th June 1902 calling for a detailed report about the methods adopted for the destruction of rats during the prevalence of plague in the District, I have the honor to state that at the commencement of the out-break of the disease in this District, a reward of one anna was offered for each rat caught or destroyed. Rat-traps were supplied to the Railway Station masters for use in their goods Sheds. Upto date 3612 rats were destroyed and a sum of Rs 225-12-0 was spent as reward.

2. The declaration of a reward for the destruction of rats is the only method adopted for preventing the spread of the Plague germs from house to house and this so far has borne good fruit

This

This system encourages poor people to resort to the destruction of these animals which carry the infection from house to house. There has been no opposition to the measure on the part of the people.

3. In addition to payment of rewards the house-owners may be advised to set fire to all rat-holes in their houses as soon as dead rats are found in any house. If this system be universally adopted at the preliminary stages of the disease, the danger of the spread of the infection by means of these animals will be minimized.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient servant

Deputy Commissioner

Encl.

SECTION 7

FILE No. 8

SER'AL No. 8

OFFICE OF THE [illegible] 1549 5-Aug 1902

No. 352 1902

FROM K. P. Puttanna Chetty Esquire
Deputy Commissioner
Shimoga District

To H. Ramaiah Esquire
Assistant Secretary to the
Government of Mysore

Dated 2nd August 1902

Despatched 2nd August

Received

General No. 186
No. 109

Enclosure No. Nil.

With reference to Secretary's docket No 19183 L.B(P)1878 of 13.6.1902, begs to submit the Report on the destruction of rats in this District as called for therein

95
a 5

No

2nd August 1902

From K. P. Pillanna Chetty Esquire
Deputy Commissioner
Shimoga District

To.
H. Rangaiah Esquire
Assistant Secretary to the Government
of Mysore.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit this report as called for in your No. 19183 / L B(P) 1878 of 13.6.1902.

When the plague broke out in this District in September 1900, the instructions contained in Government proceedings No. Py. 573-83 dated 21st November 1900 were carried out as far as practicable. These consisted of such measures as prevention of overcrowding, nuisances and filthy conditions, creation of means of Ventilation removal of plague patients and their Contacts from infected places, disinfection or destruction of houses and huts, destruction of rats in infected localities etc.

With regard to the destruction of rats, rewards were offered by the Shimoga Municipality for their destruction, but people did not come forward to

to earn the reward. They have no opposi-
-tion to the rats being destroyed by ~
Government agency as dogs are killed
in municipalities, but they do not wish
to do it themselves, especially the higher
Sections whom generally the lower orders
follow in the matter of destroying life.
The difficulty of killing rats is greater
than that of killing dogs and the reward
offered is not as high as that for dogs.
Those that make up their mind to kill
rats cannot find them as easily as
they find dogs in Streets. They have
to get easy access to private houses,
which generally they are denied. No
Expenditure was therefore incurred
under the head "Destruction of rats".
In this District where orthodoxy pre-
=vails to a greater extent than in other
Districts like Bangalore and Mysore,
I do not think the measure will be
practically useful till in Course of
time people become Convinced by
Sad experience of the efficacy of the
measure and the necessity for the
destruction of rats which are a fertile
source of spreading the infection
I have the honour to be
Sir,
your most obedient Servant

W. H. Cammyclift

Deputy Commissioner
Shimoga District.

A.S.

Hr 413 07

1743
13 AUG. 1902
1902

SECTION [illegible]

FILE No. [illegible]

SERIAL No. [illegible]

FROM B. G. Krishnaswamy Esquire
Deputy Commissioner
Kadur District

To H. Ramanna Esquire,
Assistant Secretary
to Govt. in charge of
Local Boards &c.

Dated 12th

Despatched 14th August 1902

Received

General No. 238
No.

Enclosure No.

Reporting in the matter of destruction of rats in the Kadur District.

28

1902.

Deputy Commissioners Office Kadur District
Dated Chikmagalur 12th August.

From

B. Y. Krishnaiyangar Esquire,
Deputy Commissioner
Kadur District

To

H. Ramaiya Esquire,
Assistant Secretary to
Govt. in charge of
Local Boards Branch

Sir,

Referring to Government Official memorandum no. 19183 L.B.(P) 1878 dated the 13th June 1902 and subsequent reminders no. 1007-17 L.B.(P) 421 and 1947-52½ L.B.(P) 81 dated the 16th & 30th July 1902, I have the honor to state that in accordance with the late Plague Commissioner's Circular no. 566-71 dated the 15th August 1898, the Amildars of Kadur and Tarikere Taluks of this District were directed to pay at the rate of one anna per head of rat killed and destroyed in each of the Railway stations Kadur, Birur, Ajjampur and Tarikere from the 1st September 1898 with the result that about 10000 rats have been destroyed from the commencement up to the close of last Official year.

2. From the reports received from the Amildars of Tarikere and Kadur, it is observed that rat-trap is the only instrument used to catch rats.

3- The destruction of rats is no doubt desirable to check the infection from spreading as it is established beyond question that rats convey the disease from place to place, but in view of the fact that the means available for destroying them is very unsatisfactory, I am doubtful if a thorough extirpation of rats can ever be made by means of traps

I have the honor to be
sir,
Your most obedient servant

C. R. Cummins
Deputy Commissioner
Kadur District

L 48/1902

1730

15 AUG 1902

SECTION

FILE No. 2 · 1 · 1 · 1 · 1 · 1 · 1 ·

SER'AL No. 18

To E. B. Carr Esq
Deputy Commissioner
Kolar District

V. Iranjumdanga Esq
Secretary to the Govern-
-ment of Mysore

Dated 14 August 1902

Desp'd.

No C 229 Encl:

Submitting report
regarding the destruction
of rats

21

No———————

Enclosers, No.

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

KOLAR DISTRICT.

DATED 14th August 1902

From

F. C, CARR, *Esqr.*

Deputy Commissioner,

Kolar District.

To

A. V. Narjundayya Esqre
Secretary to the Government
of Mysore Revenue and
General Departments.

Sir,

With reference to your ~
letter No 96 dated (16th August 02) ~ wib ~ with regard
to the destruction of rats in connec-
tion with Plague measures, I have
the honor to state that as far as
I am aware no special steps have
been employed for the destruction
of these animals in this District.

I do not think that should
any steps be taken, the preju-
dices of the people would be in
any way interfered with, but

I very much doubt whether any Scheme could be practically worked by Government unless the hearty co-operation of the Public was ensured.

Col: Smyth has, I believe, a very useful and easily procured remedy against the incursions of rats - namely a mixture of Tar and Arsenic, but I am unaware whether this mixture has been tried on a large scale and whether it has been found efficacious. —

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obed[illegible] Servant,

H. Cam
Deputy Commissioner
Kolar District

Re 449 JB

1902—3

Labr

1902

SECTION Gen

FILE No.

SERIAL No. 11

FROM

OFFICE OF THE DEWAN OF MYSORE
Regd No 1774
20 AUG 1902

To

Deputy Commissioner
Hassan District

G. V. Narjundiah Esq/ire MA.

Secretary to the Govt of Mysore
General & Rev: Departments

Dated 16th August 1902

Despatched

Received Bangalore.

General No. 37

No. 29

Enclosure No. Nil.

Sir,

With reference to your official memo No 19183 / L B (P) 1878 Dated 13th June 1902, I have the honor to state that upon a circular issued by the Plague Commissioner in 1898, destruction of rats was tried in the Taluk of Arsikere which was then the place most threatened with Plague.

Rat traps were supplied for the purpose and a reward of one anna was sanctioned for a rat. In course of about 6 months about 1028 were destroyed at a cost of Rs 61—3—3 pies. The rats afterwards became wary and would not approach the

31 traps. The destruction of rats gradually slackened and had after some time to be given up as hopeless.

The method of destruction by poison was not tried as it involved great risk to human life. The poison had to be mixed with some eatable substance and exposed in the house. There was thus the danger of it being taken up and eaten by young boys in the house. More over, there was the like-lihood of the poison being carried by rats to vessels containing water and other eatable substances. The operation therefore was not popular with the people at the time the experiment was tried, nor do I think that it has any chance of success now as the people are not likely to take to it on account of the risk involved in it. No opposition of any sort on the part of the people was experienced in the destruction of rats.

I have the honor to be

Sir.

Your most obedient Servant

for Deputy Commissioner

Hassan District

BBP

Re 457

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1902 - 1903

OFFICE OF THE
RECD 1833 Esquire
1 AUG 1902
DIVISION

SECTION

FILE No.

SERIAL No. 12

From A. V. Ramanandayya Esqr
Deputy Commissioner of
Bangalore District

To A V Ramanandayya Esqr
in H M's
Secretary to Govt in Dept of
Revenue and
General depart-
ments

Dated
Despatched 20.8.02
Received

General No. 14
No.

Enclosure No.

Submitting the
report re the
Desmelion of rats

LKr
21.8.02

No 14.

Office of the Deputy Commissioner
Plague department,
Dated, Bangalore 20th
August 1902

From.

H. A. Sparkes Esquire.
Deputy Commissioner,
Bangalore District.

To.

H. V. Ranganadayya Esquire
Secretary to Government of
Mysore Revenue and
General Department
Bangalore.

Sir.

With reference to your memo
No. 19183
L&C/1878 of the 13th June last
Calling for a report about the
destruction of rats Connected with
the plague preventive measures,
I have the honor to state that the
foremost symptom and forecast
prior to the outbreak of the
epidemic in any place is the
failu

3 Falling of dead rats in houses.

As days passed on the people came to experience (1) that rats were the carriers of infection (2) and the utility of destroying them. Accordingly, some set traps to catch and exterminate them were devised, while others killed them by poisoning.

2 The people themselves were for their destruction and they tried all they could hence no opposition was raised nor encountered by them.

(3) Though it was notified that rewards would be given for the killing of rats, the majority of people did not come forward to claim the rewards, though thousands of rats were killed in the Nelliamgala and Dodballapur Talukas it is stated that Rs 20 + 12/5 or Rs 32/5 was spent on this account

4 It is not possible to

take the number of rats killed
no such account was ordered to
be kept during the plague-years.
The number of rats both killed
by people and succumbed to plague
must have been very large.

5. When the people undertake
for their own interests to adopt
measures to kill rats, the method
of awarding presents for them does
not seem commendable.

6. People are quite alive to
the fact of rats conveying the
disease of plague and may I
think be left to their own devices
if any new method is introduced
I have no doubt people would
be willing to buy it.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient servant

(?) Deputy Commissioner
Bangalore

Very Urgent

SECTION

FILE No.

SERIAL No. 13

190

From

To

SENIOR SURGEON'S OFFICE, MYSORE
No. 54 P
Dt. 28.8.02
28 AUG. 1902
BANGALORE
MYSORE

H. V. Nanjundayya Esqr
M. A, M. L.
Secy to Govt
Genl & Rev Depts
Bangalore

Dated

Despatched

Received

General No.

No.

Enclosure No. 1.

Submitting a detailed report about the destruction of rats in the Mysore State

LBO
28 Aug 02
4.50 PM

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Very Urgent

From

Lt. Col. Percy M. Benson M.B, I.M.S,
Senior Surgeon and Sanitary Commissioner
with the Government of Mysore, Bangalore.

To

H. V. Nanjundayya Esq. M.A, M.L,
Secretary to the Government of Mysore
General and Revenue Departments, Bangalore.

No. 54 P

Dated 28th August 1902

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your No.19183/L.B.P.1878 of/3-6-02 forwarding copy of letter No. 122-2 dated 15th May 1902 from the Under Secretary to Government of India Home Department requesting that they may be furnished with a report containing full particulars as to any methods which may have been from time to time employed for the destruction of rats. in the Mysore State-In reply I have the honor to state that prior to the out-break of the epidemic of Plague in Bangalore I strongly urged the Municipality to proclaim a Jehad against the rats in the city and for the purpose a reward was offered for Bandicoots, rats & mice & upwards of 20,000 were killed.

Further information required.

Beyond this no organized method whatever was employed in this State-Owing in a great measure to the want of private enterprise in co-operating with the measures recommended by Go-

vernment

Spasmodic attempts to destroy rats by means of traps and poison have been made in several towns but with little success. There has been no opposition on the part of the people to the destruction of rats by the above means.

The cost incurred is not precisely known but it certainly could not have exceeded one thousand rupees. It is impossible to give any reliable estimate of the approximate number destroyed other than the 20,000 referred to as having been destroyed in Bangalore city prior to the out-break of Plague.

With reference to question 5 there can in my opinion be no doubt as to the usefulness of any measure, which will exterminate rats if such a measure can be found out, but it is very much easier to prescribe the remedy than to carry it out as the population of rats is not counted in thousands but in millions. Plague itself has done more to exterminate rats than any measure yet devised. At my request the Government Bacteriologist made experiments on rats with cultivation of the Bacillus Coli Communis which is said to produce a contagious disease among rats causing a death rate of about 80% in favourable circumstances - at the same time being harmless to man and domestic animals. The results of his experiments were anything but successful as will be seen by a reference to his report herewith

appended

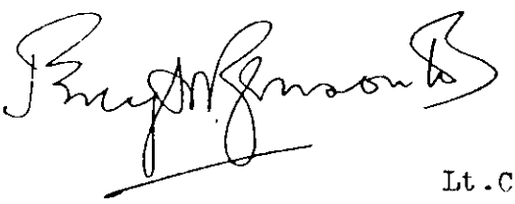
If to be obligingly returned when done with

appended.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant



Lt.Col.I.M.S.

Senior Surgeon and Sanitary Commissioner

Mysore Government.

The Chemical Laboratory
& Bacteriological Institute. 14/a

Bangalore, 1st August 1902

No. 49

Enclosures:—

From Dr. M. Srinivasachar
The Chemical Examiner and Bacteriologist
to the Government of Mysore,
Bangalore.

To Lt. Col. P. H. Bensonm R. A. M. S.
Senior Surgeon & Sanitary Commissioner
with the Government of Mysore
Bangalore

Sir,

With reference to your docket
№ 306 dated 26.7.02, I have
the honour to state that I made
2 Series of Experements on the
influence of bacterium Coli Communis
on rats

2 One c c of bouillon emulsion
of a culture on agar tube ~~Culture~~

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of the Colon bacillus was inocu-
lated into 4 rats, all of which are
alive and well even after the lapse
of 2 months. Of 4 animals
experimented upon in the 2nd Series,
2 died the day after inoculation,
1 a fortnight later but not from the
effects of inoculation and 1 is now
alive and well

3. 2 Sets of 4 rats each were
fed on 4 different occasions with
food mixed with a bouillon culture
of ~~plague bacillus~~ Colon bacillus.
Only one of them died 2 days after
the last feeding with ingested
material

4. The general Conclusion

from these experiments is that the
Colon bacillus has hardly any effect
in causing the death of rats.

I have the honour to be
Sir
Your most obedient servant
M Srinivasa Rau

Chemical Examiner & Bacteriologist
to the Government of Mysore.

Rg Dy/no: 45
2.8.02

Bijuponath Mem

5-8-02

46
14

Fair Draft.

SECTION Sanitary To

FILE No. 3801/01

SERIAL No. 14 (LRC) 3860 182 Dated 12/9/02.

The First Assistant to the Hon'ble the Resident in Mysore.

Sir

With reference to your Memo No. 3016 dated the 31st. May 1902 forwarding for report, copy of letter No. 122-2 dated the 15th. Idem from the Under Secretary to the Govt. of India, Home Dept. regarding the extermination of rats in areas infected with plague or threatened with an importation of the disease, I am directed to state that no organized methods have been employed in the State for the destruction of these animals and that the Durbar are therefore not in a position to express any opinion as to the efficacy or otherwise of this measure of protection.

2. No opposition on the part of the people to the destruction of rats has been encountered by Govt. owing, it is believed, chiefly to the fact that no opportunity was lost in impressing upon them the fact that rats are the chief carriers of plague infection and that the comparative immunity which any place enjoyed from the disease has probably been due more or less to the absence of these

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these animals from that place.

3. No strictly accurate information can be gathered in regard to the No. of rats destroyed by private enterprize though it is believed that a good many were destroyed in that way; 18,973 rats are reported to have been killed by official agency at a cost of Rs. 1362/- in 5 of the 8 Districts and in the cities of Bangalore and Mysore.

4. I may add that at the Senior Surgeon's request, the Govt. Bacteriologist made experiments on rats with cultivation of the Bacillus Coli Communis which is said to produce a contagious disease among rats causing a death rate of about 80% in favorable circumstances, at the same time being harmless to man and domestic animals. The results of his experiments were anything but successful.

5. A copy of Dr. Sreenivasa Rao's report is herewith forwarded.

11.1.02

I have &ca.

Secretary.